

votes: Nos. 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 770, and 771, and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 769.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mrs. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

□ 1530

## CERTIFICATION OF APPLICABLE WAIVER WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-67)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POLIS) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

The Clean Diamond Trade Act (Public Law 108-19) (the "Act") authorizes the President to "prohibit the importation into, or exportation from, the United States of any rough diamond, from whatever source, that has not been controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme." The Act takes effect on the date that the President certifies to the Congress that (1) an applicable waiver that has been granted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) is in effect, or (2) an applicable decision in a resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations is in effect. The Act remains in effect during those periods in which, as certified by the President to the Congress, such an applicable waiver or decision is in effect.

On July 29, 2003, the President certified that the WTO General Council had adopted a decision granting a waiver pursuant to Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization concerning the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds. The waiver applies to the United States and other WTO members that requested the waiver and to any WTO member that notifies the WTO of its desire to be covered by the waiver. The waiver was scheduled to have effect from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2006. On December 19, 2006, the WTO General Council adopted a decision to extend the waiver through December 31, 2012.

I hereby certify that an applicable waiver, within the meaning of the Act, granted by the World Trade Organization has been in effect since January 1, 2003, and will remain in effect through December 31, 2012.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 8, 2009.

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, the majority leader, for the purpose of announcing next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

On Monday, the House will not be in session. On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business tomorrow, as is the custom.

In addition, we will consider H.R. 2442, the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Expansion Act of 2009; the conference report on H.R. 2892, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2010; and quite possibly, assuming the conference is completed, the conference report on H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. I would also like to thank the gentleman for his courtesy and his time in meeting with me earlier today in the discussion of health care, and I'm hopeful that that discussion was fruitful and that we could see a dialogue continue towards some type of working relationship in the areas that we can agree on. So I do thank the gentleman.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman some of the things we didn't cover in the meeting, and that is, first off, the timing of any kind of health care bill reaching the floor of this House and whether he could provide any clarity on that.

I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for coming by my office and spending time in discussion.

As the gentleman knows, health care has been the focus of this Congress for much of our present session; three committees have completed their work, ongoing discussions about how to put the work product of the three individual committees together. The Senate Finance Committee is, we think, going to vote on theirs next week. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has reported out a bill. So we have five committees that have essentially completed their work. There will be, obviously, once the bills are put together and all the suggestions are incorporated, a necessity to get a score from CBO. We expect that to take at least a week, 7 days, maybe more.

In addition to that, the Speaker and I have both indicated that there will be

72 hours' notice of the bill and a manager's amendment. I want to clarify that. If they both come out at the same time, it will be one 72-hour period. If for any reason they come out separately, then we will make sure that the last issued will have 72 hours before we put the bill out on the floor.

In light of that, my expectation is certainly the bill will not be on the floor either the next week or early in the following week. The earliest, in my opinion, the bill could be on the floor would be the latter part of the second week from now.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

So if I hear correctly, we're talking about the final week of this month at the earliest.

Mr. HOYER. I think that would be the earliest, as a practical matter, that we could put the bill on the floor with the notice that we have indicated we're going to give and, of course, with the CBO score.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for that.

I would ask the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, about some statement that the Speaker made indicating how the reimbursement rates would work and whether there is clarity on that or not yet. I think the Speaker had asked the question rhetorically whether Medicare rates would be the reimbursement rates in the bill, and any kind of enlightenment that he can shed on that, I'd appreciate it.

I yield.

Mr. HOYER. At this point in time, these are still under discussion, and, therefore, I don't have a specific answer for the gentleman. But the Speaker's comments, I think, spoke to the fact that they are still under discussion.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say, again, the gentleman and I had discussed in general the opposition to the public option that we have on this side, and I would just like to ask the gentleman again, given the Speaker's comments about reimbursement rates, Medicare rates, whether the public option is still where the Speaker and he are in terms of what a House bill would look like given where the Senate is.

I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

In terms of where the Speaker and I are, we have been consistently for, as you know, a public option. The Speaker and I continue to be for a public option, as is the President, and we believe the majority of the House is for that.

I will tell the gentleman that I think that in terms of the reimbursement rates, as I said, that's still under discussion, but I think there is consensus that a public option is something, as the President has indicated, as we have indicated, that will provide a competitive model to both bring prices down and to protect consumers. So I think the answer is that that's certainly still part of our plan.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for that. And again, he and I have discussed the differences that the sides